

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 16, 2008, has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment can be found at, *inter alia*, paragraphs [0044] and [0045] of the specification. Claims 3 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Therefore, Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-17 are currently pending in this application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Application, and allowance of the presently pending claims.

Claims 1-10 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,722,340 (“Sweetman”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that Sweetman does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2, 4, and 6-17 depend, defines a fairing for mounting upon an underwater cylinder. The fairing includes a wedge-shaped fairing body and at least two collars which are both secured to the fairing body and are separated from each other along the length of the fairing body. The collars are positioned and aligned along the cylindrical member so as to mount the fairing body upon the cylindrical member and allow the fairing body to rotate about the axis of the cylindrical member. The collars are each comprised of resiliently deformable material. The collars each include a respective bearing ring which has a gap on one end. As a result, the respective bearing ring can be opened out to enable the cylindrical member to be introduced into the bearing ring. The bearing rings each have a portion that stands

proud of the adjacent end face of the fairing body and which provides an exposed annular surface.

Sweetman fails to disclose at least two collars which are both secured to the fairing body, as required by Claim 1. Instead, Sweetman discloses collars (16) secured to a riser (10), not to a fairing body. See Figure 2. Furthermore, Sweetman fails to disclose collars comprising resiliently deformable material, respective bearing rings that have a gap so that the collar can be opened to enable the cylindrical member to be introduced into the bearing rings, and bearing rings that have a portion that stands proud of the adjacent end face of the fairing body and have an exposed annular surface. Instead, the Sweetman apparatus includes bearing collars (16) that come in halves and must be spaced a chosen distance from each other and secured to the riser by means of bolts (41), whereas the fairing is then assembled around the riser and bearing collars and is free to rotate about the riser on the bearing surfaces provided by the collars. See Figure 2, Col. 3, lines 12-41; Col. 4, lines 15-31.

It is not possible for the Sweetman collars and fairing to be placed on the cylindrical member without complicated assembly, or removed without disassembly. What the present invention provides, by contrast, is a less complex, novel, and more economical fairing whose mounting on the riser is straightforward and requires none of the complicated assembly/disassembly of Sweetman.

Therefore, for at least the reasons given above, Sweetman fails to disclose each and every element of Claim 1, and all claims dependent thereto. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection to Claims 1-10 and 15-17 be withdrawn, and that claims 1-2, 4, and 6-17 be allowed.

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sweetman in view of either one of JP2-176217 or U.S. Patent No. 5,467,728 (“Lucy”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Lucy merely discloses a ball-splined shaft assembly, does not disclose a fairing for mounting according to the present invention, and therefore fails to cure the deficiencies of Sweetman. Lucy discloses a retractable bow diving plane for a submarine, does not disclose a fairing for mounting according to the present invention, and therefore fails to cure the deficiencies of Sweetman. Claims 11 and 12 are dependent upon independent Claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection to Claims 11 and 12 be withdrawn.

Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sweetman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,347,911 (“Blair”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Blair merely discloses a vortex shedding strake wraps for submerged pilings and pipes, does not disclose a fairing for mounting according to the present invention, and therefore fails to cure the deficiencies of Sweetman. Claims 13 and 14 are dependent upon independent Claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection to Claims 13 and 14 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, all objections and rejections have been sufficiently addressed. The Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance

and request that claims 1-2, 4 and 16-17 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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